

The list of High Unemployment Areas (HUAs) has been updated for Grant Year 2018. This list is updated during the qualification year with data from the Virginia Employment Commission. Previously, positions paying less than 175 percent of the federal minimum wage were not eligible for the JCG. However, an amendment to the statute now allows otherwise eligible businesses in high unemployment areas paying 150 percent of the federal minimum wage (\$10.88/hour) to receive grants. The current high unemployment area zones authorized by this provision are listed below.

2018 Enterprise Zone Grant Application			
High Unemployment Areas (HUA)			
Dickenson County (Clintwood & Haysi)	49	Northampton County	26*
City of Covington	53*	City of Petersburg	10
City of Danville	1, 57*	Tazewell County	44
City of Hopewell	9	Wise County	52
City of Martinsville	36, 54*		
<i>*The following communities in joint zones are NOT HUAs: Alleghany County and Town of Clifton Forge, Henry County, Accomack County and Pittsylvania County. Businesses in these communities are not eligible for the reduced wage threshold. Source: DHCD based on the LAUS Unit and Bureau of Labor Statistics 2017 Annual Virginia Unemployment Report.</i>			

The City of Covington is now considered a High Unemployment Area (HUA) zone. Businesses in these zones are eligible to apply for the \$500/PFTE Job Creation Grant at the reduced wage rate threshold of 150% of the Federal Minimum Wage (FMW) or \$10.88 per hour.

The following localities are no longer considered HUA zones:

Brunswick County
 City of Emporia
 City of Franklin
 City of Galax
 Greensville County
 Halifax County
 Henry County

Lancaster County (Kilmarnock)
 Mecklenburg County
 Page County
 City of Portsmouth
 Prince Edward County
 Richmond County
 Smyth County

Businesses in these zones that have previously applied for the JCG as HUA applicants may continue to qualify for the \$500 grant at the reduced wage threshold of \$10.88/hour for the remainder of their 5-year grant period. However, **any new business applying for the JCG in these zones must pay a wage rate threshold of at least 175% of the FMW (\$12.69/hour) to be eligible for the grant.**

Any business applying as an HUA applicant must use form **EZ-JCG-HUA** and fill out the **JCG-HUA Worksheet**. These documents are specifically tailored to accommodate the reduced wage rate threshold.